

AUTONOMOUS STATION KEEPING SYSTEM FOR FORMATION FLIGHT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system for autonomously keeping an aircraft's station in a formation flight of a plurality of aircraft includes a navigation system configured to determine a position of an aircraft. A data link is configured to allow the aircraft to communicate data with at least one
10 other aircraft in the formation flight of the plurality of aircraft. A sensor is configured to detect a presence of another aircraft within a predetermined distance of the aircraft. A processor is configured to provide control signals to the aircraft's autoflight system to keep the aircraft at a predetermined station relative to the other of the plurality of aircraft in the formation flight.



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